

REMARKS

Applicant herewith affirms election of Species I, claims 1-7, 9-11, 14-23, 29-38, and 40-41.

Claims 1-11, 14-23, 29-37, and 40-41 are considered generic, and upon allowance thereof applicant will be entitled to further consideration of additional species written in dependent form.

Applicant notes the Examiner's further inclusion of claim 8 as generic and available for consideration at this time.

Claims 12-13, 24-28, and 39 remain pending, but presently withdrawn from consideration.

Accordingly, claims 1-11, 14-23, 29-38, and 40-41 stand pending and under consideration.

The drawings stand under objection for including reference numerals (51, 108b, 40', 114b, 206a, 206b, 208a, 208b, 325, 334, 350, 141', and 25') not mentioned in the specification.

Applicant notes the following: reference numeral 334 is mentioned in the specification on page 16 at line 33 and reference numeral 141' is mentioned in the specification on page 18 at line 2.

Applicant proposes removal of the remaining subject reference numbers (51, 108b, 40', 114b, 206a, 206b, 208a, 208b, 325, 350, and 25'). Applicant provides herewith a set of proposed replacement drawings with the remaining subject reference numerals removed therefrom.

Claims 1-5, 8-11, 14-19, 22-23, 31, 34-38, and 40-41 stand rejected under 35 USC Section 102 as allegedly anticipated by Smith US No. (5, 020,244).

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fig. 5

Smith shows use of airflow directed along or across media. As evident from the various embodiments shown by Smith, in each case directional components of the airflow are with parallel relationship to the media. In other words, the disclosure of Smith shows use of an airflow moving across the surface of the media.

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The Examiner cites chamber 17 and opening 26 of Smith as showing, with respect to claim 1, an “airflow including a first directional component away from said printzone and a second directional component onto said first surface, said second directional component urging said media against said support apparatus.”

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Applicant acknowledges that the airflow shown by Smith at opening 26 includes a directional component away from the printzone. In fact, as a practical matter the airflow at opening 26 is directed substantially wholly away from the printzone, there being no substantial directional component toward or “onto” the media surface. The shape of the chamber 17 and opening 26 clearly bring the airflow into a substantially parallel relation relative to the media surface. This clear intent of the Smith device is supported further by the directional arrows appearing through the drawings of Smith showing the airflow as being along, across, or parallel to the media surface. The airflow shown by Smith then continues along a path parallel to the media surface.

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Respectfully, applicant finds no substantial airflow directional component other than one parallel to or across the media surface. This directional relationship between airflow and media surface is evident from the drawings and description provided by Smith. For example, the Abstract of Smith (also cited by the Examiner in support of the 35 USC Section 102 rejection) makes use of the phrase “across the media surface” in describing the relationship between airflow direction and media surface. Of note, Smith makes use of the term “across” through the disclosure when describing airflow relative to the media surface.

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Nowhere does Smith show any significant airflow directional component onto or toward the media surface, and certainly none stabilizing media by virtue of an orientation of direction.

More particularly, no airflow shown by Smith assumes a directional component sufficiently “urging said media against said support apparatus” as set forth in claim 1.

Stabilization of media under the teachings of Smith is not by orientation of airflow directional components.

Accordingly, Smith cannot support a 35 USC Section 102 rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5, 8-11, and 14-18.

The remaining independent claims have been amended to further distinguish over Smith.

Claim 19 as amended herewith calls for “said airflow as provided at said vent including directional components away from said printzone and sufficiently into media for stabilization thereof.”

Smith fails to show airflow provided at a vent including a directional component sufficiently into media for stabilization thereof.

Accordingly, Smith cannot support a 35 USC Section 102 rejection of claim 19.

Claim 22 calls for “providing an airflow ... at said vent, and against said media with directional components at said outlet vent including a first component directed away from said printzone and a second component directed sufficiently into said media for stabilization thereof.”

Smith fails to show media stabilization by airflow directional component and, therefore, cannot support a 35 USC Section 102 rejection of claim 22 and its dependent claim 23.

Claim 31 calls for airflow “directional components of substantial magnitude into said print imaging sufficient to stabilize media bearing said print imaging.”

5 Smith applies an airflow substantially only along or across the media surface, and cannot be taken under 35 USC Section 102 as showing airflow directional components “of substantial magnitude into said print imaging sufficient to stabilize media bearing print imaging.”

Again, Smith does not make use of airflow direction to stabilize media.

10 Accordingly, Smith cannot support a 35 USC Section 102 rejection of claim 31 and its dependent claim 34.

Claim 35 calls for “airflow directional components away from said printzone and sufficiently into said media to stabilize said media.”

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Smith shows no media-stabilizing airflow into media, rather substantially only along or across a media surface, and cannot support a 35 USC Section 102 rejection of claim 35 and its dependent claims 36-38.

20 Claim 40 calls for airflow with “second directional components sufficiently toward said media to bear said media against a support apparatus of said printzone and thereby stabilize said media thereat.”

25 Once again, Smith does not apply airflow in a direction to bear against a support apparatus and thereby stabilize media.

Accordingly, Smith cannot support a 35 USC Section 102 rejection of claim 40 and its dependent claim 41.

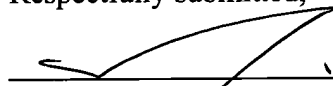
Claims 6-7, 20-21, 29-30, and 32-33 stand rejected as allegedly made obvious in light of Smith in combination with Martinengo (US No. 5,495,275).

Martinengo shows use of specialized heating plates in contact with media. Thus, Martinengo at best only modifies Smith with respect to heating element. A combination of Smith and Martinengo falls short of the claimed invention in that it provides an airflow substantially only along or parallel to the media surface and without directional components sufficient to stabilize the media.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 6-7, 20-21, 29-30, and 32-33 as obvious under 35 USC Section 103 must be withdrawn.

In light of the above amendment and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

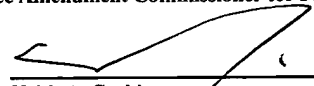

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